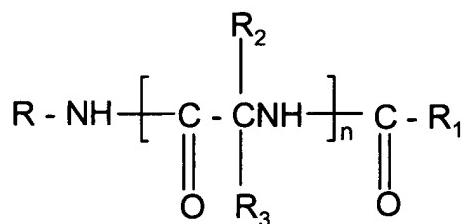


IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for alleviating pain in a patient suffering from chronic pain comprising administering to said patient an analgesic effective amount of a compound of the formula:



wherein

R is hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, aryl, aryl lower alkyl, heterocyclic, heterocyclic lower alkyl, lower alkyl heterocyclic, lower cycloalkyl, lower cycloalkyl lower alkyl, and R is unsubstituted or is substituted with at least one electron withdrawing group or electron donating group;

R₁ is hydrogen or lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, aryl lower alkyl, aryl, heterocyclic lower alkyl, heterocyclic, lower alkyl heterocyclic, lower cycloalkyl, lower cycloalkyl lower alkyl, each unsubstituted or substituted with an electron donating group or an electron withdrawing group; and

R₂ and R₃ are independently hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, aryl lower alkyl, halo, heterocyclic, heterocyclic lower alkyl, lower alkyl heterocyclic, lower cycloalkyl, lower cycloalkyl lower alkyl, or Z-Y wherein R₂ and R₃ may be unsubstituted or substituted with at least one electron withdrawing group or electron donating group wherein the electron donating group or electron withdrawing group is acyclic; and wherein heterocyclic in R₂ and R₃ is furyl, thienyl, pyrazolyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, indolyl, thiazolyl, oxazolyl, isothiazolyl, isoxazolyl, piperidyl, pyrrolinyl, piperazinyl, quinolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, isoquinolyl, benzofuryl, benzothienyl, morpholinyl, benzoxazolyl, tetrahydrofuryl, pyranyl, indazolyl, purinyl, indolinyl, pyrazolindinyl, imidazolinyl, imidazolindinyl, pyrrolidinyl, furazanyl, N-methylindolyl, methylfuryl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, epoxy, aziridino, oxetanyl or azetidinyl;

Z is O, S, S(O)_a, NR₆', or PR₄;

Y is hydrogen, lower alkyl, aryl, aryl lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, heterocyclic, heterocyclic lower alkyl, and Y may be unsubstituted or substituted with an electron donating group or an electron withdrawing group, or

ZY taken together is NR₄NR₅R₇, NR₄OR₅, ONR₄R₇, OPR₄R₅, PR₄OR₅, SNR₄R₇, NR₄SR₇, SPR₄R₅, PR₄SR₇, NR₄PR₅R₆, or PR₄NR₅R₇,

$$\text{NR}_4\text{C}-\text{R}_5, \text{SCR}_5, \text{NR}_4\text{C}-\text{OR}_5, \text{or } \text{SC}-\text{OR}_5;$$

R_6' is hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, or lower alkynyl and $R_4 R_6'$ may be unsubstituted or substituted with an electron withdrawing group or electron donating group;

R₄, R₅ and R₆ are independently hydrogen, lower alkyl, aryl, aryl lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, or lower alkynyl, wherein R₄, R₅ and R₆ may be unsubstituted or substituted with an electron withdrawing group or an electron donating group; and

R₇ is COOR₈, COR₈, hydrogen, lower alkyl, aryl, aryl lower alkyl, lower alkenyl or lower alkynyl, which R₇ may be unsubstituted or substituted with an electron withdrawing group or electron donating group;

R₈ is hydrogen or lower alkyl, or aryl lower alkyl, and the aryl or alkyl group may be unsubstituted or substituted with an electron withdrawing group or an electron donating group; and

n is 1-4; and

a is 1-3.

2. (Original) The method according to Claim 1 wherein one of R₂ and R₃ is hydrogen.
3. (Original) The method according to Claim 1 wherein n is 1.
4. (Original) The method according to Claim 1 wherein one of R₂ and R₃ is hydrogen and n is 1.
5. (Original) The method according to Claim 1 wherein R is aryl lower alkyl and R₁ is lower alkyl.

6. (Original) The method according to Claim 1

wherein

R₂ and R₃ are independently hydrogen, lower alkyl, heterocyclic, heterocyclic loweralkyl, or ZY;

Z is O, NR₄ or PR₄;

Y is hydrogen or lower alkyl or

ZY is NR₅R₆R₇, NR₅OR₆, ONR₅R₇, NR₅C-R₆ or NR₅C-OR₆.
|| ||
O O

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 6 wherein

R₂ is hydrogen and R₃ is hydrogen, lower alkyl, heterocyclic, heterocyclic loweralkyl lower alkyl or ZY;

Z is O, NR₄ or PR₄;

Y is hydrogen; or lower alkyl; or

ZY is NR₅NR₆R₇, NR₅OR₆, ONR₅R₇, NR₅C-R₆ or NR₅C-OR₆.
|| ||
O O

8. (Original) The method according to Claim 6 wherein R₂ is hydrogen and R₃ is lower alkyl, which may be unsubstituted or substituted with an electron donating or electron withdrawing group, NR₄OR₅, or ONR₄R₇.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 8 wherein R₃ is lower alkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted with hydroxy or lower alkoxy loweralkoxy, NR₄OR₆ or ONR₄R₇, wherein R₄, R₅ R₆ and R₇ are independently hydrogen or lower alkyl, R is aryl lower alkyl

loweralkyl, which aryl group may be unsubstituted or substituted with an electron withdrawing group and R₁ is lower alkyl.

10. (Original) The method according to Claim 9 wherein aryl is phenyl.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 6 wherein one of R₂ and R₃ is heterocyclic.

12. (Original) The method according to Claim 11 wherein heterocyclic is heteroaromatic.

13. (Original) The method according to Claim 11 wherein R₃ is furyl, pyridyl, thienyl or thiazolyl.

14. (Original) The method according to Claim 9 wherein aryl is phenyl and is unsubstituted or substituted with halo.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the compound is

(R)-N-Benzyl-2-acetamide acetamido-3-methoxy- propionamide;

O-methyl-N-acetyl-D-serine-m-fluorobenzylamide;

O-methyl-N-acetyl-D-serine-p-fluorobenzylamide;

N-acetyl-D-phenylglycinebenzylamide;

D-1,2-(N, O-dimethylhydroxylamino)-2-acetamide acetamido acetic acid

benzylamide; or

D-1,2-(O-methylhydroxylamino)-2-acetamido acetic acid benzylamide.

16. (Original) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the pain is neuropathic pain.

17. (Original) The method according to Claim 6 wherein the pain is neuropathic pain.

18. (Original) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the pain is nociceptive pain.

19. (Original) The method according to Claim 6 wherein the pain is nociceptive pain.

20-50. (Currently Cancelled)

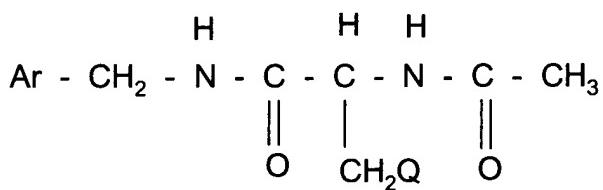
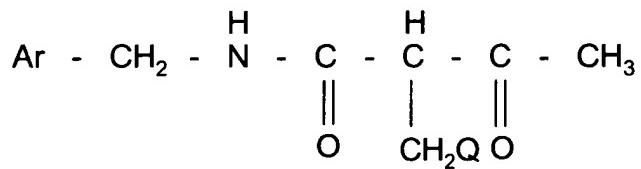
51. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the electron withdrawing group and electron donating group are selected from the group consisting of halo, nitro, carboxy, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, formyl, carboxyamido, trifluoromethyl, lower alkoxy carbonyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy, lower alkyl, amino, lower alkylamino, lower alkylamino
~~lower alkylamine~~, mercapto, lower alkylthio ~~lower alkylthio~~, and lower alkyldithio.

52-55. (Currently Cancelled)

56. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1 20 wherein the carbon atom which is substituted by R₂ and R₃ is in the D configuration.

57. (Cancelled)

58. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the compound is of the formula:



wherein

Ar is aryl which is unsubstituted or substituted with an electron donating or electron withdrawing group, and

Q is loweralkoxy lower alkoxy.

59. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 56 58 wherein Ar is unsubstituted aryl or aryl substituted with halo.

60. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 56 58 wherein Q is methoxy.

61. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 56 58 wherein Q is methoxy and Ar is unsubstituted aryl or aryl substituted with halo.

62. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 56 58 wherein the carbon atom which is bonded to CH₂Q is in the D configuration.

63-72. (Cancelled)